

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 8, 9 and 30-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by WO 01/07518 (Maekawa et al), is respectfully traversed. The Examiner finds that none of the three Japanese priority applications supports the rejected claims, and therefore, Maekawa et al has not been removed as prior art. Specifically, the Examiner finds that a mole percent range of 2 to 45% of units derived from at least one vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group or carboxylic anhydride group, and a mole percent range of 98 to 55% of units derived from another vinyl monomer or monomers copolymerizable with the carboxyl group- or carboxylic anhydride group-containing vinyl monomer, is not described in any of the priority applications. However, the above-amended claims now recite ranges of --2 to 30-- mole percent, and --98 to 70-- mole percent, respectively. These ranges are described in each priority application. For example, they are described at page 9, lines 1 and 18-19, respectively, of the certified English translation of Japan 2000-196818, filed June 29, 2000. Thus, Maekawa et al is removed as prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

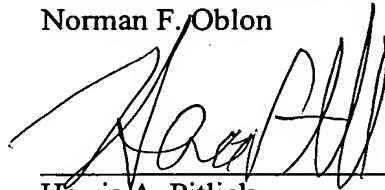
The rejection of Claims 8-13 and 27-36 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claim 21 of U.S. 6,451,901 (U.S. Maekawa et al), is respectfully traversed. **Submitted herewith** is a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Maekawa et al. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Application No. 10/616,907
Reply to Office Action of June 24, 2005

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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